

NHACD Report to NH STC  
1/26/2016

The NH Association of Conservation Districts and its member districts have been working on issues of sustainability, land conservation, farm viability, soil, water and habitat conservation since the 1940's.

Districts are comprised of volunteer supervisors, many of whom are farm and forest land owners, the districts are staffed by conservation professionals with a commitment to natural resource management.

NHACD and its 10 member districts are among the core partners with USDA-NRCS in addressing working lands natural resource concerns and providing locally led voluntary conservation solutions to farmers, forestland owners and communities across NH.

- The Long Island Sound Regional Conservation Partnership Program is moving forward with opportunities for our Districts in the Connecticut River watershed to assist landowners in meeting their conservation needs. We will be seeking assistance from partners working in the watershed to identify critical areas for engagement and to support the districts work .
- NHACD hosts the annual New England Leadership meeting in Portsmouth, NH March 21/22. The meeting brings together conservation district leaders and NRCS leadership from across New England to discuss issues and share best practices.
- NHACD is actively seeking Engineers to participate to support NRCS Engineering work with cooperators and we encourage interested engineers to reach out to Roger Noonan at [admin@nhacd.net](mailto:admin@nhacd.net) or call him at 603-361-4747.
- NRCS, NHACD, NHDAMF and UNHCE have entered into an cooperative agreement to conduct a series of collaborative innovative demonstration projects. Currently we have hired John Field Geomorphologist to prepare designs for streambank habitat improvement and riparian buffers on three rivers in Coos County. (Upper Ammonoosuc, Israel, and Bog Stream) . All are in focus areas for the state and will protect agricultural lands from increased flooding and improve fish and wildlife habitat.
  - In addition we are working to develop some innovative cover crop trials at the Grafton Co Farm, by Interseeding legumes, radish and annual rye grass at the V4 stage (knee high) in late June, this timing will allow us to work with species such as clovers and tillage radish which take longer to establish than winter rye.

- We are also working on some short day corn trials to better understand how much yield is lost in comparison to additional growing days which would benefit cover crops, and possibly reduce inputs for fertilizers and herbicides.
- NHACD with the support of NHDES and NRCS is training district personnel to serve as Approved TSP's to provide additional nutrient management planning capacity in the state.
- The Collaborative Pollinator Summit Nov 2 was well attended and The NHACD's SPCBG pollinator project culminated with the summit in partnership with NHDAMF, UNHCE and NRCS-NH.
- The NHACD held its annual meeting Nov 3 .

Cooperator of the year award went to the Fabrizio Family of Haverhill, and the Educator of the Year award went to Distant Hill Gardens in Cheshire County . The NHACD Presidents for leadership in conservation went to NRCS Resource Conservationist Don Keirstread .

- NHACD continues to track a number of bills in the statehouse that may impact statewide conservation efforts.